

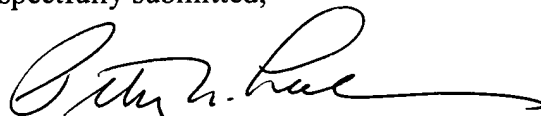
Remarks

Each of claims 1 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,296,237 to Nagai, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,257,730 to Nakaura. It is submitted, however, that independent claims 1 and 16 as amended and claim 28 as previously presented are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by either of such references taken singularly or in combination.

Each of the claims recites a jounce bumper, an energy absorption device or an assembly which includes a flexible or compressible member having a cup-shaped configuration provided with an annular wall, and a rigid ring or band disposed about the annular portion of the cup shaped member, having a width of a dimension selected from a group of dimensions not greater than the dimension of the height of the annular portion of the cup-shaped member. As indicated in the specification, in the use of such ring or band of different widths, the amount of radial expansion of the cup-shaped member and correspondingly the amount of absorption of energy of the assembly may be varied. In this regard, it is to be noted that none of the references of record disclose or teach the use of any such ring or band mounted on the exterior of the annular portion of any cup-shaped member formed of a flexible or compressive material.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of claims 1 through 28 be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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